BLM

Carlsbad Field Office

Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Determination

Carlsbad Field Office

Bureau of Land Management

May 2012

It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Carlsbad Field Office

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

Approved by:

_____ _____

Jim Stovall **Date**
Carlsbad Field Office Manager

Page intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

Page intentionally left blank.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA; 16 USC 1271-1287) on October 2, 1968, to protect certain selected rivers with their immediate environments in a free flowing state for the benefit of present and future generations. Section 5 (d) (1) of the WSRA directs Federal land management agencies to consider potential Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) in their land and water planning processes, stating, "In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas."

The Wild and Scenic River Study Process

The BLM evaluates identified river segments for their eligibility and suitability for WSR designation through its RMP process (BLM, 1993, p. 10). WSR studies consist of the following steps:

- **Eligibility Determination:** An inventory of river features is conducted to determine which rivers are eligible (meet the required standards) to be added to the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS).
- **Tentative Classification:** All eligible river segments are tentatively classified as wild, scenic, or recreation.
- **Suitability Determination:** BLM evaluates eligible river segments in the RMP process and then recommends whether or not rivers should be protected by Congress through inclusion in the (NWSRS).

River segments are only added to the NWSRS through an act of Congress or by an act of the legislature of the State upon submission by the Governor and approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) is revising their Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which will provide a single, comprehensive land use plan to guide future management of public land administered by the CFO. This report documents the identification of rivers and river segments to be evaluated for inclusion in the NWSRS, and the eligibility determination and tentative classification for those rivers and river segments.

The steps used for WSR eligibility evaluation are:

- Identification of which rivers and river segments to include in the evaluation;
- Evaluation of rivers and river segments for free-flowing status;
- Evaluation of rivers and river segments for the presence of outstandingly remarkable values; and
- Determination of the tentative classification of rivers as wild, scenic, or recreational.

Summary of Findings

Table 1 displays a summary of the eligibility determination findings.

Table 1. Summary of Eligibility Determination Findings

River	Segment Length Including Non-BLM-Managed Lands (miles)	Segment Length Occurring Only on BLM-Managed Lands (miles)	Free-Flowing Determination (Y/N)	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Eligible (Y/N)
				Scenic	Recreation	Geologic	Fish	Wildlife	Cultural	Historic	Other	
Black River	3.67	3.67	Y	X		X	X	X				Y
Delaware River	8.54	8.22	Y				X	X	X		X	Y
Pecos River Segment 1	2.38	2.38	Y									N
Pecos River Segment 2	7.12	6.44	Y									N
Pecos River Segment 3	5.53	4.03	Y									N

IDENTIFICATION

The WSRA defines a river as “a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.”

The following resources were used to identify rivers to be included in the study process:

- Rivers or river segments identified in an official publication or list of another agency or river support organization,
- The 1970 United States Department of Agriculture and United States Department of Interior List, and
- The Nationwide Rivers Inventory List (BLM 1993, p. 13).

None of these sources identified any rivers or river segments located in the CFO.

Other sources of information used to identify rivers to be included in the study process included:

- The Outstanding Rivers List compiled by American Rivers, Inc.;
- Published guidebooks, regional guides, and inventories;
- River segments identified in Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans;
- River segments officially identified by State or local government agencies as being in the public interest for river protection; and
- River segments identified in public scoping during the RMP process.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance nominated the Delaware River for inclusion in the NSWSR in their scoping comment received in August 2010.

Ephemeral waterways, which contain water only in response to local precipitation events, were not inventoried for eligibility; however, intermittent streams, which contain a predictable seasonal flow of water, were included in the inventory.

Geographic Information System (GIS) layers were used to identify perennial and intermittent rivers and streams. Four rivers fit this criteria: the Black, Delaware, Rio Penasco, and Pecos Rivers. These rivers were examined to determine land ownership and whether the river should be segmented for study. The rivers were carried forward or dropped from consideration as follows:

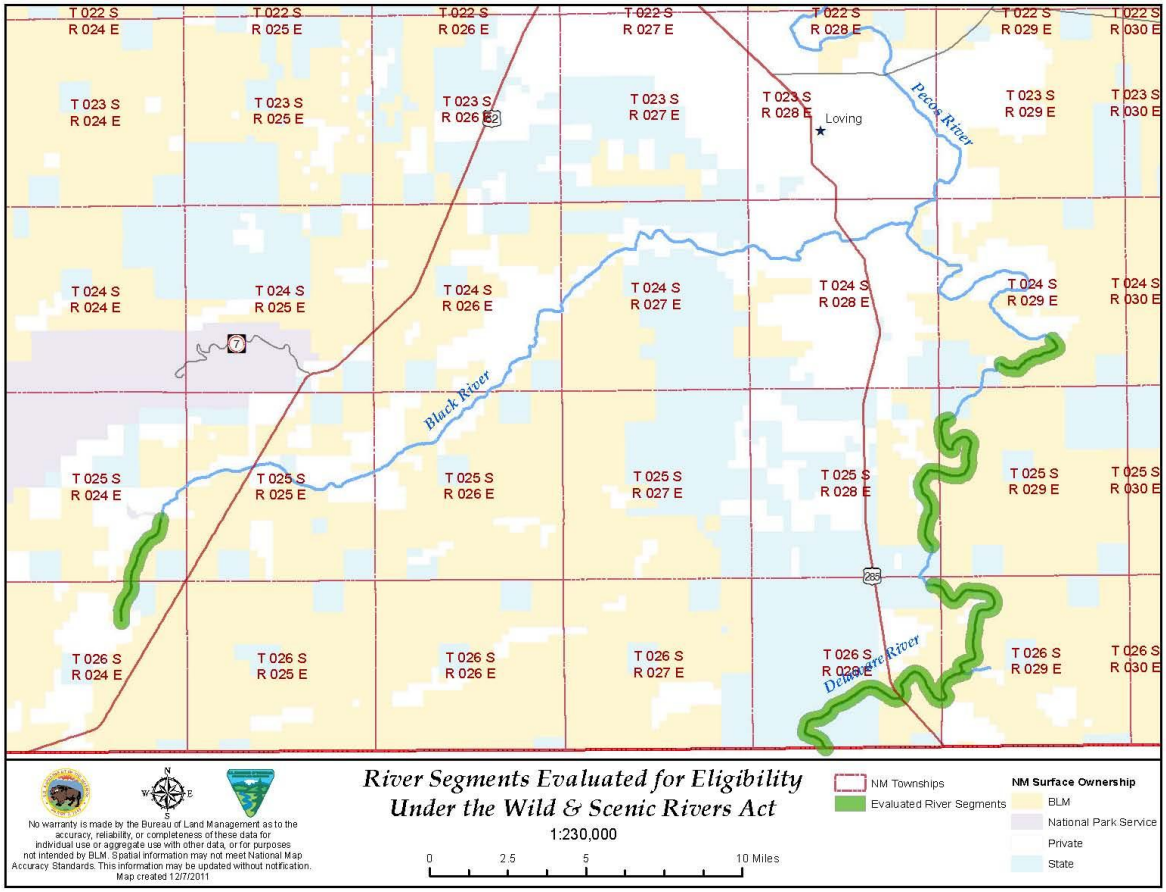
- **Black River:** The Black River flows above ground near the headwaters and then drops below ground shortly after leaving BLM-managed land. Any above-ground flow after this point is ephemeral. Thus, the segment carried forward for evaluation represents the only above-ground perennial or intermittent flow on BLM-managed land. The segment for evaluation begins at the.
- **Delaware River:** The entire stretch of the Delaware River is perennial and was carried forward for evaluation.
- **Rio Penasco:** Only 0.3 miles of the Rio Penasco flows through BLM-managed lands, so this river was dropped from further consideration.
- **Pecos River:** The Pecos River has perennial flows. It was divided into three segments in response to significant changes in land status (BLM 1993, p. 14).

Table 2 displays the river segments identified to be evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion in the NWSRS.

Table 2. Rivers Identified for Eligibility Evaluation

River Name	Reason for Consideration	Segment Description	Total Length (miles)	Total BLM Jurisdiction (miles)
Black River	Identified in public scoping during the RMP process	Headwaters to T. 25. S. R. 24 E. Sec. 25	3.67	3.67
Delaware River	GIS layers	Texas State Line to confluence with the Pecos River	8.54	8.22
Pecos River Segment #1	GIS layers	T. 24 S. R. 29 E.; Sec. 27, 33, & 34	2.4	2.4
Pecos River Segment #2	GIS layers	T. 25 S. R. 29 E., Sec. 7 & 18; T. 25 S. R. 28 E., Sec. 13, 24, & 25	7.12	6.44
Pecos River Segment #3	GIS layers	T. 26 S. R. 28 E., Sec. 1 to confluence with the Delaware River	5.53	4.04

Figure 1. River Segments Evaluated for Eligibility under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act



EVALUATION

Eligibility

Free-Flowing

Free-flowing is defined by Section 16(b) of the WSRA as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.” BLM Manual H-8351 further clarifies that the existence of small dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time the river segment is being considered does not automatically disqualify it for consideration as a potential addition to the NWSRS. In addition, the existences of impoundments above or below the segment, existing minor dams, and diversion structures within the study reach does not make a segment ineligible (BLM, 1993, p. 15-16).

Black River

The Black River has a small dam for diversion of water into an irrigation ditch. The dam was privately constructed prior to 1950 and cemented by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish during the 1950s. Sixty acre feet of water a year, 19.5 million gallons, are diverted by BLM to water nearby fields for wildlife use. This feature does not disqualify the river from being free-flowing because it has a minor effect on the natural flow of the river and the riverbank vegetation. There are no other modifications to the river flows. The Black River meets the criteria for free-flowing.

Delaware River

A dam was constructed along the Delaware River in 1922; however, it breeched in 1938. Although there is evidence of the dam along the bank, the instream structures have since been removed and do not modify the flow of the Delaware River. The Delaware River meets the criteria for free-flowing.

Pecos River

The Pecos River is dammed by the Upper Tansil Dam and Lower Tansil Dam upstream of the river segments being evaluation for eligibility. This does not affect the free-flowing nature of the segments. All segments of the Pecos River meet the criteria for free-flowing.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Black River

Scenic Values

Scenic quality ratings were conducted at two locations along the Black River. Both locations received a rating of A.

At the first location, the Black River has distinct pools as a result of collapsing features at the bottom of rolling gypsum hills. The blue/green color of the pools contrasts with the earth tones of surrounding vegetation and soils. Vegetation densely covers the low hills with a variety of grasses, shrubs, and even trees.

At the second location, the Black River presents a flat river bottom area that contains a deep, clear, pristine, gently flowing river. Some minor rolling hills appear in places. Lush river bank vegetation contrasts with sparser gypsum soil vegetation in the near distance. Scattered cottonwood clumps provide strong vertical lines to the riparian area. The water is clear enough to see the river bottom vegetation. There is a yellow visitor deck that provides a viewing structure to the surrounding area.

Such views are not common in the geographic region. Scenic values qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Black River.

Recreational Values

The Black River is used for swimming, fishing, hunting, and wildlife observation, particularly at the Cottonwood Day Use Area; however, that use is local in nature. Some equestrian use occurs along the shoreline. The recreational opportunities are not unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Visitors have not typically travelled long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. Recreational values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Black River.

Geological Values

The Black River is located in the Castile formation consisting mainly of anhydride and gypsum deposits. The headwaters of the Black River originate from the alluvium and Capitan Reef Talus of the Guadalupe Mountain chain. Erosional processes in the valley associated with the Black River are solutional in nature; the river does not erode into the bed rock, instead the bedrock collapse preceeds the river formation.

The addition of water to anhydrite changes it to gypsum. The gypsum then dissolves into water. This water aids in the collapse of bedrock, creating voids. This active process is occurring within the Black River Valley. This process has created discernable sink holes in the headwaters of the Black River. This process is hypogenetic, meaning occurring from below the surface, and is not erosional by nature. Through time, this series of sink holes connected downstream and formed the Black River Valley.

This process has also created the water quality and water chemistry associated with the dissolution of anhydrite and gypsum-the water is saturated with respect to calcium sulfate. This saturated water on occasion precipitates out as selenite crystals downstream from the head waters. A similar process is thought to have formed the ancestral Pecos River, some 400 to 600 years ago.

While this type of geologic process is the same as what formed the Pecos and Delaware Rivers, the fact it is still occurring is rare within the geographic region. Geological values are an outstandingly remarkable value for the Black River.

Fish Values

Several spring-fed pools within the area comprise the headwaters of the Black River, the source of which is the highly calcium-charged Capitan Aquifer. The river is characterized by a series of deep, elongated pools interconnected by a shallow, narrow stream with a perennial surface flow in a normal precipitation year. The Black River provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region, including the Green Sunfish (Lepomis cyanellus), and Longear Sunfish (Lepomis megalotis).

Several special status species are known to occupy the Black River. The Headwater Catfish (Ictalurus lupus) is a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Species of Concern, BLM Sensitive Species, and a State of New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need. This species occupies clear temperate waters generally with a moderate gradient. In addition, State of New Mexico listed species included two Endangered fishes, Gray Redhorse (Moxostoma congestum) and Blue Sucker (Cycleptus elongates), and four Threatened species, Mexican Tetra (Astyanax mexicanus), Rainwater Killifish (Lucania parva), Greenthroat Darter (Ethestoma lepidium) and Roundnose Minnow (Dionda episcopa).

Fish values qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Black River.

Wildlife Values

The Riparian habitat associated with the Black River supports 11 known riparian-obligate species. Riparian obligate species are species that place more than 90% of their nests in riparian vegetation or for which more than 90% of their abundance occurs in riparian vegetation during the breeding season. Without riparian vegetation in good ecological condition, these species will not occur in this area.

Fourteen riparian-dependent species occupy the Black River riparian area. These are species that place 60% to 90% of their nests in riparian vegetation or for which 60% to 90% of their abundance occurs in

riparian vegetation during the breeding season. A 2006/2007 inventory of breeding birds along the Black River resulted in a total of 72 avian species.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus occidentalis), a USFWS Species of Concern and State of New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need was record during the survey. The Yellow-billed cuckoo is a riparian obligate that has experienced significant declines in recent decades, particularly in the western United States. In New Mexico, the species is found in riparian zones with dense understory vegetation, most commonly in the south and along major drainages. It is vulnerable to loss, fragmentation, and degradation of riparian habitat, and to broad-scale clearing of exotic vegetation along the Pecos River where nesting in salt cedar is common.

The Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii) is a USFWS Species of Concern, State of New Mexico Threatened species, and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Bell's Vireo a riparian obligate has experienced significant declines and loss of local populations in several portions of its range, including the southwest United States. In many locations, including New Mexico, it suffers low productivity due to brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds, which in turn may be a consequence of habitat alteration.

The Western River Cooter (Pseudemys gorzugi) is a State of New Mexico Threatened species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In New Mexico, the species appears to be uncommon within its restricted range; however, populations have likely declined. This is a result of degradation of habitat through stream-dewatering, loss of vegetation, and pollution (Schmitt et al. 1985).

Four State of New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation need are known to occur within the Black River segment: the Barking Frog (Craugastor augusti), Rio Grande Leopard Frog (Rana berlandien), Plain-bellied Watersnake (Nerodia erythrogaster; State of New Mexico Endangered species), and Western Ribbon Snake (Thamnophis proximus; State of New Mexico Threatened species).

Wildlife values qualify as an outstandingly remarkable values for the Black River.

Cultural Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites that are rare, have unusual characteristics, or have exceptional human-interest values. Cultural values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Black River.

Historical Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites or features associated with a significant event, and important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. Historical values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Black River.

Other Similar Values

No similar values were identified for the Black River.

Delaware River

Scenic Values

Scenic quality ratings were conducted at two locations at the Delaware River resulting in ratings of C and B, respectively.

At the first location, the Delaware River flows through a V-shaped ditch. Vegetation provides a variety of colors, textures, and lines as it goes from thicker mat-forming grasses to bunch grasses intermixed with shrubs and trees. Vegetation is interspersed with river gravel and sand. The old dam dominates the view.

At the second location, the Delaware River winds through the bottom of a 30-foot drainage. Vegetation provides a variety of shapes and sizes, varying from low grasses to cottonwoods. Dead cottonwoods

provide evidence of previous floods. Colors remain earth tones, with varying greens, whites, and yellows dominating the landscape. Views are limited to the immediate area by the drainage.

Scenic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Delaware River.

Recreational Values

The Delaware River is used for camping, hiking, fishing, wildlife watching, picnicking, and swimming; however, most of the use is local. The recreational opportunities are not unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Visitors have not typically travelled long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. Recreational values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Delaware River.

Geological Values

The Delaware River was formed by the same process that formed the Black River; however, this process is no longer active. Now, the Delaware River occurs in a typical drainage pattern as it flows into the Pecos River. The Delaware River does not contain an example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare, unusual, or unique to the geographic region. Geologic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Delaware River.

Fish Values

The Delaware River is fed by a series of lesser drainages originating from the limestone foothills of the Guadalupe Escarpment in Texas. The river is characterized by a series of deep, elongated pools interconnected by shallow, narrow runs with a perennial surface flow in normal precipitation years. The Delaware River has a considerably higher proportion of native species as compared to introduced species in the system. During a 2008 fish survey of the Delaware River, 98% of the total catch was comprised of native species.

Eight families of fish are known to be present in the river. The families are as follows: Clupeidae (herrings), Cyprinidae (carps & minnows), Catostomidae (suckers), Characidae (tetras), Ictaluridae (catfish), Cyprinodontidae (killifishes), Poeciliidae (livebearers) and Centrarchidae (sunfishes).

Two special status species are known to occupy the Delaware River. The Mexican Tetra (Astyanax Mexicanus), a State of New Mexico Threatened species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need, is the only characid occurring naturally in the United States. In New Mexico, this species is now restricted largely to its key habitat areas, which are Blue Spring and the Delaware River (Sublette 1975). New Mexico constitutes the northern limits of the native distribution of this species.

The Headwater Catfish (Ictalurus lupus) and Channel Catfish (Ictalurus punctatus) occur within the Delaware River (McClure-Baker, et al., 2010). The Headwater Catfish is a USFWS Species of Concern, BLM Sensitive Species, and a State of New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need. These two species are known to hybridize and only two pure populations of headwater catfish remain (McClure-Baker et al. 2010). The Delaware River represents a possible conservation opportunity to secure a third population of headwater catfish since the species still occurs in this river. The species occupies clear temperate waters generally with a moderate gradient.

Fish values qualify as outstandingly remarkable values for the Delaware River.

Wildlife Values

The riparian habitat associated with the Delaware River supports five known species of riparian obligate species. Riparian obligate species are species that place more than 90% of their nests in riparian vegetation or for which more than 90% of their abundance occurs in riparian vegetation during the breeding season. Without riparian vegetation in good ecological condition, these species will not occur in this area. Ten riparian dependent species occupy the Delaware riparian area. These are species that

place between 60% and 90% of their nests in riparian vegetation or for which between 60% and 90% of their abundance occurs in riparian vegetation during the breeding season.

A 2006/2007 inventory of breeding birds along the Delaware River identified 51 avian species. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus occidentalis), a USFWS Species of Concern and State of New Mexico Species of Greatest Conservation Need, was record during the survey. Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a riparian obligate that has experienced significant declines in recent decades, particularly in the western United States. In New Mexico, the species is found in riparian zones with dense understory vegetation, most commonly in the south and along major drainages. It is vulnerable to loss, fragmentation, and degradation of riparian habitat. For example, nesting habitat in salt cedar along the Pecos River has decreased recently due to broad-scale clearing of exotic vegetation.

The Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii) is a USFWS Species of Concern and a State of New Mexico Threatened and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Bell's Vireo a riparian obligate has experienced significant declines and loss of local populations in several portions of its range, including the southwest United States. In many locations, including New Mexico, it suffers low productivity due to brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds, which in turn may be a consequence of habitat alteration.

Wildlife values qualify as outstandingly remarkable values for the Delaware River.

Cultural Values

There is a Traditional Cultural Property associated with the Delaware River. The area has been identified as being important to the Mescalero Apache Indian Tribe. Cultural values qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Delaware River.

Historical Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites or features associated with a significant event, and important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. Historical values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Delaware River.

Other Similar Values

Pleistocene mammoth and bison bones have been recovered along the eroding banks of the Delaware River. In 1999, paleontologists from the BLM and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History removed a 10,000 to 20,000 year old mammoth tusk from the bank of the Delaware River. Other paleontology exposures along the river have been reported. Although the area is mapped as Potential Fossil Yield Class II, the entire length of the Delaware River is known to have a high potential for fossils. A BLM archaeologist recently observed paleontological deposits that appear to be in the same vicinity where the 1999 excavation occurred. This is unique within the geographic region and provides educational and scientific opportunities. Paleontological values qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Delaware River.

Pecos River Segment #1

Scenic Values

A scenic quality rating was conducted for this segment of the Pecos River, resulting in a Scenic Quality Rating of C. The river flows through a sandy ditch of red and tan soils. The river is slow-moving and contains stagnant green and brown water. Livestock use is evident along the banks. Green salt cedar and yellow kochia dominate the banks. Scenic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Recreational Values

Recreation along the Segment #1 of the Pecos River consists primarily of hunting and some equestrian use. Recreational opportunities are not unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Recreational values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Geological Values

The Pecos River was formed by the same process that formed the Black River; however, this process is no longer active. Now, the Pecos River occurs in a typical drainage basin. The Pecos River does not contain an example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare, unusual, or unique to the geographic region. Geologic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Fish Values

The Pecos River contains a large number of non-native and introduced species, including carp and walleye. In addition, the overall water chemistry does not lend itself to a sustainable, diverse warm water fishery. The Pecos River Segment #1 does not contain any wild or unique stocks, or populations of State, federally listed, or candidate, threatened, or endangered species. Fish values do not quality as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Wildlife Values

Large portion of the bank of the Pecos River are denuded of vegetation resulting in the absence of nesting structure or cover for wildlife species. Wildlife values do not qualify as outstandingly remarkable for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Cultural Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites that are rare, have unusual characteristics, or have exception human-interest values. Cultural values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Historical Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites or features associated with a significant event, and important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. Historical values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Other Similar Values

No similar values were identified for the Pecos River Segment #1.

Pecos River Segment #2

Scenic Values

A scenic quality rating was conducted for this segment of the Pecos River, resulting in a Scenic Quality Rating of C. The river flows through a ditch of tan sandy and rocky soils. A rusted pipeline and parallel road are evident along the bank. The river contains green and brown water. Green salt cedar and yellow kochia dominate the banks where vegetation is present. Scenic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Recreational Values

Recreation along the Segment #2 of the Pecos River consists primarily of hunting and some equestrian use. Recreational opportunities are not unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Recreational values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Geological Values

The Pecos River was formed by the same process that formed the Black River; however, this process is no longer active. Now, the Pecos River occurs in a typical drainage basin. The Pecos River does not contain an example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare, unusual, or unique to the geographic region. Geologic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River.

Fish Values

The Pecos River contains a large number of non-native and introduced species, including carp and walleye. In addition, the overall water chemistry does not lend itself to a sustainable, diverse warm water fishery. The Pecos River Segment #1 does not contain any wild or unique stocks, or populations of State, federally listed, or candidate, threatened, or endangered species. Fish values do not quality as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Wildlife Values

Large portion of the bank of the Pecos River are denuded of vegetation resulting in the absence of nesting structure or cover for wildlife species. Wildlife values do not qualify as outstandingly remarkable for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Cultural Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites that are rare, have unusual characteristics, or have exception human-interest values. Cultural values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Historical Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites or features associated with a significant event, and important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. Historical values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Other Similar Values

No similar values were identified for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Pecos River Segment #3

Scenic Values

A scenic quality rating was conducted for this segment of the Pecos River, resulting in a Scenic Quality Rating of C. The river flows through a ditch of rocky tan soils and green and yellow vegetation. It is crossing by a road, which is cemented in the river. Various black and white pipelines lie on the banks or cross the river. The area is littered with bottles and trash. Scenic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #3.

Recreational Values

Recreation along the Segment #3 of the Pecos River consists primarily of hunting and some equestrian use. Recreational opportunities are not unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Recreational values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #3.

Geological Values

The Pecos River was formed by the same process that formed the Black River; however, this process is no longer active. Now, the Pecos River occurs in a typical drainage basin. The Pecos River does not contain an example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare, unusual, or unique to the geographic region. Geologic values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River.

Fish Values

The Pecos River contains a large number of non-native and introduced species, including carp and walleye. In addition, the overall water chemistry does not lend itself to a sustainable, diverse warm water fishery. The Pecos River Segment #1 does not contain any wild or unique stocks, or populations of State, federally listed, or candidate, threatened, or endangered species. Fish values do not quality as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Wildlife Values

Large portion of the bank of the Pecos River are denuded of vegetation resulting in the absence of nesting structure or cover for wildlife species. Wildlife values do not qualify as outstandingly remarkable for the Pecos River Segment #2.

Cultural Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites that are rare, have unusual characteristics, or have exception human-interest values. Cultural values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #3.

Historical Values

The river segment and corridor do not contain known sites or features associated with a significant event, and important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. Historical values do not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Pecos River Segment #3.

Other Similar Values

No similar values were identified for the Pecos River Segment #3.

Tentative Classification

According to BLM Manual 8351, all eligible river segments are given a tentative classification. Classifications are:

- **Wild River Areas:** Rivers or sections of rivers that are free from impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America. Wild means undeveloped; roads, dams, or diversion works are generally absent from a quarter mile corridor on both sides of the river.
- **Scenic River Areas:** Rivers or sections of rivers that are generally free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads. Scenic does not necessarily mean the river corridor has to have scenery as an outstandingly remarkable value; however, it means the river segment may contain more development than a wild segment and less development than a recreational segment.
- **Recreational River Areas:** Rivers or sections or rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. Parallel roads or railroads, existence of small dams or diversions can be allowed in this classification. A recreational river area classification does not imply that the river will be managed or prioritized for recreational use or development.

Black River

The Black River is readily accessible by road at two locations, Ladder Hole and the Cottonwood Day Use Area. Two-track roads parallel the river from both accesses; although a gate prevents public access to the two-track road at the Cottonwood Day Use Area. County Road 418 also parallels the river around the Cottonwood Day Use Area. The Cottonwood Day Use Area contains a parking lot that is approximately 500 feet from the river's edge, a picnic area, and a short, paved trail leading to a wildlife viewing platform that overhangs the shoreline. Additional shoreline developments include a trail along the shoreline that is used by hikers. Other developments along the Black River include user created features such as trails, fire pits, and ladders. The Black River has a small dam for diversion of water into an irrigation ditch.

The Black River has a tentative classification as a Recreational River Area.

Delaware River

The river is accessible at two locations, the old dam and near Highway 285. Highway 285 also crosses the river. A two-track road parallels the river that is used for vegetation treatments and may be occasionally used by the public. The two-track is unpaved and generally not visible from the river. There are no existing impoundments along the Delaware River. Shorelines are largely primitive although there is some development in one location including a parking lot, pipe fences, a water pump, and the remains of a large dam.

The Delaware River has a tentative classification as a Scenic River Area.

LIST OF PREPARERS

The following individuals participated in the preparation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Determination.

Name	Title
John Chopp	Wildlife Biologist
Steve Daly	Rangeland Management Specialist (Soil Conservationist)
Dave Herrell	Geologist, Safety and Hazmat Coordinator
Cody Layton	Natural Resource Specialist
Owen Lofton	Resource Management Plan Team Lead
George MacDonell	Associate Field Manager
Amanda Nisula	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
James Sippel	New Mexico Program Lead – Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, National Scenic and Historic Trails
James Smith	Archaeologist
James Renn	Archaeologist